

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-104. (Canceled)

105. (Currently Amended) Process for producing ~~[[a]]~~ colored synthetic fiber composition, with fibers having improved color strength and dimensional stability, the process comprising:

(1) melt blending:

a) at least one fiber-forming polyamide,

b) at least one unsulfonated thermoplastic polyester, said at least one unsulfonated thermoplastic polyester being present at a ratio of/less than 2:1 by weight with respect to said at least one fiber-forming polyamide between about 15% and 35% by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition, and forming a dispersed, non-continuous, minor phase in a matrix of said at least one fiber-forming polyamide,

c) a colorant system comprising at least one colorant selected from the group consisting of inorganic pigments, ~~organic pigments~~, and ~~mixtures of inorganic and organic pigments~~;

d) at least one polymeric-metal sulfonate polyester compatibilising additive;

(2) forming said melt blend into filaments; and

(3) drawing said filaments into fibers.

106. (Cancel)

107. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 105, wherein said at least one ~~polymeric compatibiliser~~ metal sulfonate polyester compatibizing additive is selected from the group consisting of alkali

metal salts of poly(ethylene terephthalate-co-sulphoisophthalate),
poly(propylene terephthalate-co-sulphoisophthalate) and poly(butylene
terephthalate-co-sulphoisophthalate), ~~and blends and mixtures thereof.~~

108. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1065, wherein
said metal sulphonate copolymer is present at between about 1 weight %
and about 25 weight % of the melt blend.

109. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1065, wherein
said metal sulphonate polyester is added in an amount such that the melt
blend has between about 300 and about 3500 ppm sulphur.

110. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 105, wherein
said colorant system employed in the step of melt blending includes at
least one carrier resin for said colorant selected from the group consisting
of polyamides, polyesters and sulphonated polyesters.

111. (Cancel)

112. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 105, comprising
the further step of texturing said fibers subsequent to drawing said
filaments into fibers.

113. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 105, wherein
said at least one fiber-forming polyamide is selected from the group
consisting of polyamide 6, polyamide 11, polyamide 12, polyamide 6,6,

polyamide 6,10, polyamide 6,12, and copolymers, ~~blends and mixtures~~
thereof.

114. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 105, wherein
said at least one fiber-forming polyamide is selected from the group
consisting of polyamide 6 and polyamide 6,6.

115. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 105, wherein
said at least one thermoplastic polyester is selected from the group
consisting of polyalkylene terephthalates, polyalkylene succinates,
polyalkylene adipates, polyhydroxyacids[[,]] and copolymers, ~~blends or~~
~~mixtures~~ thereof.

116. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 105, wherein
said at least one thermoplastic polyester is selected from the group
consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(propylene terephthalate),
poly(butylene terephthalate), and copolymers, ~~blends or mixtures~~ thereof.

117. (Cancel)

118. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 105, wherein
said at least one colorant is selected from the group consisting of metal
oxides, mixed metal oxides, metal sulphides, zinc ferrites, sodium
alumino sulpho-silicate pigments, carbon blacks, phthalocyanines,
quinacridones, nickel azo compounds, mono azo colorants,
anthraquinones and perylenes.

119. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 105, wherein said at least one colorant is selected from the group consisting of carbon black, titanium dioxide, zinc sulphide, zinc oxide, Ultramarine Blue, cobalt aluminates, iron oxides, Pigment Blue 15, Pigment Blue 60, Pigment Brown 24, Pigment Red 122, Pigment Red 147, Pigment Red 149, Pigment Red 177, Pigment Red 178, Pigment Red 179, Pigment Red 202, Pigment Red 272, Pigment Violet 19, Pigment Violet 29, Pigment Green 7, Pigment Green 36, Pigment Yellow 119, Pigment Yellow 147 and Pigment Yellow 150.

120. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 105, wherein said at least one colorant is present at between about 0.1 weight % and about 8 weight % of the composition.

121. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 105, including the further step of adding at least one adjuvant selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, stabiliser, processing aid, antimicrobial, flame-retardant, antiozonant, soilproofing agent, stainproofing agent, antistatic additive, lubricant and melt viscosity enhancer, or mixtures thereof.

122. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 105, wherein a draw ratio in said drawing step is from 1.05 to 7.00.

123. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 105, wherein a draw ratio in said drawing step is from 1.10 to 6.00.

124. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 105, wherein a draw ratio in said drawing step is from 1.05 to 7.00.

125. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 105, wherein a draw ratio in said drawing step is from 1.10 to 6.00.

126. (Previously Presented) A fiber made from the process of claim 105.

127. (Cancel)

128. (Currently Amended) A fiber made from the process of claim 105, wherein said fiber has a cross-section selected from the group consisting of round, delta and trilobal.

129. (Cancel)

130. (Previously Presented) A woven, knitted or pile textile article made from the fiber of claim 126.

131. (Cancel)

132. (Previously Presented) A carpet of floorcovering made from the fiber of claim 126.

133. (Cancel)